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including any claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0258. This amendment and response is timely filed within the one month extension, a separate petition for extension of time is enclosed.

In the Claims:

To facilitate review, all of the pending claims are recited below, whether amended or not.

Please cancel claims 1-25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

 26. (Twice Amended) A polynucleotide comprising a DNA sequence obtained by screening an appropriate library containing the complete gene for a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide sequence set forth in [SEQ ID NO:1] SEQ ID NO:2 under stringent hybridization conditions with a probe having the sequence of said polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof; and isolating said DNA sequence.

Please cancel claim 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

28. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 95% identity to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 to 657 of SEQ ID NO:2.

29. (Unchanged) The polynucleotide of Claim 28 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

30. (Unchanged) The polynucleotide of Claim 28 wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.

31. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 95% identity to a polynucleotide encoding the same mature polypeptide expressed by the methionyl tRNA synthetase gene contained in NCIMB Deposit No. 40771.

32. (Unchanged) A vector comprising the DNA of Claim 29.

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33. (Amended) [A] An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 32.

34. (Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the isolated host cell of Claim 33 a polypeptide encoded by said DNA.

35. (Unchanged) A process for producing a cell which expresses a polypeptide comprising transforming or transfecting the cell with the vector of Claim 32 such that the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA contained in the vector.

36. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 97% identity to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 to 657 of SEQ ID NO:2.

37. (Unchanged) The polynucleotide of Claim 36 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

38. (Unchanged) The polynucleotide of Claim 36 wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.

39. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 97% identity to a polynucleotide encoding the same mature polypeptide expressed by the methionyl tRNA synthetase gene contained in NCIMB Deposit No. 40771.

40. (Unchanged) A vector comprising the DNA of Claim 36.

41. (Amended) [A] An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 40.

42. (Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the isolated host cell of Claim 41 a polypeptide encoded by said DNA.

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43. (Unchanged) A process for producing a cell which expresses a polypeptide comprising transforming or transfecting the cell with the vector of Claim 40 such that the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA contained in the vector.

34 44. (Amended) A process for producing a tRNA synthetase polypeptide or a fragment thereof, which fragment retains binding and/or catalytic activity, comprising culturing a host of claim 41 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide or fragment.

45. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 28 comprising a polynucleotide hybridizing under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 to 657 of SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 to 657 of SEQ ID NO:2.

47. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of nucleotides 1 to 1974 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

Please cancel claim 48 without prejudice or disclaimer.

49. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a DNA sequence obtained by screening an appropriate library containing the complete gene encoding an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 under stringent hybridization conditions with a probe having a polynucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof, which fragment retains binding and/or catalytic activity; and isolating said DNA sequence.

50. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 1 to 1971 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

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51. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 1 to 1974 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

52. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of nucleotides 1 to 1971 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

53. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a RNA sequence obtained by screening an appropriate library containing the complete gene encoding an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 under stringent hybridization conditions with a probe having a polynucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof, which fragment retains binding and/or catalytic activity; and isolating said RNA sequence.

54. (Unchanged) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a DNA sequence obtained by screening an appropriate library containing the complete gene encoding an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 under stringent hybridization conditions with a probe having a polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof, which fragment is a 17-mer or longer.

B⁵ 55. (Amended) A polynucleotide which is complementary to a polynucleotide of claim [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,] 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 45, 46, [48,] 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 or 54.

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 were pending in the application. These claims are subject to restriction requirement into Groups I to VII. By response dated January 27, 1998, Applicants had elected Group I without traverse. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 26 and 44 stood rejected. In view of the foregoing